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11 *Attorneys for the California Department of Insurance*

12 **BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**
13 **OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

14 In the Matter of the Rates, Rating Plans, or
15 Rating Systems of

16 SOMPO AMERICA INSURANCE
17 COMPANY,

18 Respondent.

19 **File No. NC-2026-00008**

20 **SETTLEMENT STIPULATION AND**
21 **CONSENT TO ORDER; [PROPOSED]**
22 **CONSENT ORDER**

23 The DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA (the
24 “Department”) and SOMPO AMERICA INSURANCE COMPANY (“Sompo” or “Respondent”)
25 (collectively the “Parties”), stipulate as follows:

26 1. The Department has jurisdiction over Respondent, a licensed, admitted insurer in
27 the state of California.

28 2. At all relevant times, Respondent transacted the business of insurance in California
on risks or lines subject to the provisions of the California Insurance Code (“Insurance Code”) and the California Code of Regulations (“Regulations”).

3. On August 23, 2023, Respondent submitted a rate application (CDI File No. 23-2585; SERFF No. MRTN-133681198) requesting prior approval of a 28.8% rate decrease in its commercial lines equipment breakdown program.

4. In February 2024, the Department approved the 28.8% rate decrease with an effective date of August 1, 2024 for new and renewal business.

1 5. On November 13, 2025, Respondent notified the Department that it had failed to
2 implement the approved rate decrease.

3 6. On May 1, 2026, Respondent implemented the rate decrease.

4 7. Based upon these facts as well as additional information and documents provided
5 to the Department, including but not limited to information contained in Respondent's rate filing
6 number 23-2585, and as set forth in the Notice of Noncompliance, which has been provided to
7 Respondent, the Department is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that Respondent
8 violated Insurance Code sections 1861.01(c) and 1861.05(a) by failing to timely implement the
9 rate decrease as approved by the Commissioner.

10 8. Having fully reviewed the allegations of violations of the California Insurance
11 Code and Regulations as set forth in the Notice of Noncompliance filed in this matter,
12 Respondent hereby voluntarily and willingly enters into this Settlement Stipulation and Consent
13 to Order ("Stipulation") with the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California (hereafter
14 "Commissioner"), as a means of achieving a full and final resolution of the allegations set forth
15 in the Notice of Noncompliance, in lieu of an evidentiary hearing and Order.

16 9. Respondent has met and conferred with the Department regarding the facts and
17 circumstances giving rise to the allegations set out in the Notice of Noncompliance.

18 10. The Parties believe it is in the public interest to resolve this matter without the
19 need for a hearing or any other administrative action.

20 11. Respondent has undertaken several corrective steps as follows:

21 a. Respondent has refunded or is in the process of refunding any and all premium
22 overcharges to impacted policyholders along with 10% interest compounded
23 annually on the refund amount.

24 12. In addition to the corrective actions discussed above, Respondent agrees to take
25 the following additional steps with respect to its rate filing practices:

26 a. Respondent shall pay a penalty of \$50,000 within 30 days of receiving an invoice
27 with payment instructions from the Department; and

28 b. Respondent shall transact all current and future insurance business in compliance

1 with Insurance Code sections 1861.01 and 1861.05, and all other applicable
2 provisions of the Insurance Code and the California Code of Regulations.

3 13. At the present time, the Department agrees that by taking the corrective actions
4 listed above and paying the fine specified in this Stipulation, Respondent has or will achieve
5 compliance with California insurance laws with respect to the violations set forth in the Notice of
6 Noncompliance and herein.

7 14. Other than as set forth in this Stipulation, the Parties agree that no factual findings
8 or legal conclusions have been made.

9 15. Respondent denies the allegations contained in the Notice of Noncompliance and
10 by entering into this stipulated agreement, memorialized by this Stipulation, Respondent makes
11 no admission of liability, wrongdoing, or violation of law.

12 16. Respondent waives its rights to a hearing and any and all rights to which it may be
13 entitled pursuant to Chapter 5, Part 1, Division 3, Title 2, (Sections 11500-11529) of the California
14 Government Code, and Insurance Code section 1858.1.

15 17. This Stipulation includes all acts related to Respondent's actions and inactions that
16 led the Department to issue the Notice of Noncompliance. Nothing in this Stipulation precludes
17 the Department from pursuing other action against Respondent based upon conduct that is not
18 described herein and in the Notice of Noncompliance.

19 18. The Parties intend this Stipulation to be an integrated writing representing the
20 complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or
21 contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments
22 (written or oral). This Stipulation may not be amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise
23 changed, except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

24 19. Respondent acknowledges that this Stipulation is a public record as required by
25 Government Code section 11517(d), and that this Stipulation will be accessible to the public
26 pursuant to the California Public Records Act, Government Code sections 6250 *et seq.* The
27 Stipulation will be posted on the Department's Internet website pursuant to Insurance Code
28 section 12968.

1 20. Respondent acknowledges that Insurance Code section 12921(b)(1) requires the
2 Insurance Commissioner of the State of California (“Commissioner”) to approve the final
3 settlement of this matter. Both the settlement terms and conditions in this Stipulation and the
4 acceptance of those terms and conditions are contingent upon the Commissioner’s approval,
5 which shall be evidenced and memorialized by the Commissioner’s execution of the PROPOSED
6 CONSENT ORDER set forth below. By signing the Stipulation, Respondent understands and
7 agrees that it may not withdraw its agreement or rescind the Stipulation prior to the time the
8 Commissioner considers and acts upon the Stipulation and Proposed Consent Order. If the
9 Commissioner rejects the Stipulation and does not execute the proposed Consent Order, the
10 Stipulation shall be of no force and effect except for this paragraph, and it shall be inadmissible
11 in any legal action between the Parties. Any dispute over the admissibility, or lack thereof, of the
12 rejected stipulation and any related drafts or communications regarding settlement shall be
13 governed by applicable provisions of the California Insurance Code and related regulations, the
14 California Evidence Code, and any other applicable California law or regulation.

15 21. This Stipulation represents a full, final, and complete resolution and settlement of
16 all issues raised in the Notice of Noncompliance between the Department and Respondent and
17 supersedes and replaces prior negotiations, communications, or agreements on the subject matter
18 of this Stipulation. This Stipulation may not be modified unless agreed in a writing executed by
19 all parties and approved by an Order of the Commissioner.

20 22. This Stipulation will become final and effective only when it is approved and
21 expressly adopted by the Commissioner as evidenced by the execution of the Order below.

22 23. Discussions, admissions, concessions, or offers to stipulate or settle made by any
23 party in negotiating this Stipulation, are not discoverable, shall remain confidential, and shall not
24 be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding unless so authorized by a judicial officer (e.g.,
25 Administrative Law Judge or California Superior Court Judge) in compliance with applicable
26 California laws and regulations.

27 24. The Department and Respondent have participated jointly in the negotiation and
28 drafting of this Stipulation, and, in the event an ambiguity or question of intent or interpretation

1 arises, this Stipulation shall be construed as jointly drafted by the Parties hereto, and no
2 presumption or burden of proof shall arise favoring or disfavoring any party by virtue of the
3 authorship of any provision of this Agreement.

4 25. Nothing contained in this Stipulation and any executed Consent Order constitutes
5 a limitation upon or a waiver of the rights and powers of the Commissioner to enforce any
6 California law, to examine the rating, underwriting, and/or any other business practices of
7 Respondent, to take corrective or disciplinary action, to assess penalties against Respondent as
8 provided for by law, or to take such other action as necessary to protect the public based upon
9 conduct that is not addressed in the Notice of Noncompliance and in this Stipulation and any
10 executed Consent Order.

11 26. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed
12 to be an original but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement and
13 shall only become effective when counterparts have been signed and delivered by each of the
14 Parties to the Department. In the event that any signature is delivered by facsimile transmission
15 or by e-mail delivery of a “.pdf” format data file, such signature shall create a valid and binding
16 obligation of the Party executing (or on whose behalf such signature is executed) with the same
17 force and effect as if such facsimile or “.pdf” signature page was an original thereof.

18 27. Respondent acknowledges that it freely and voluntarily executed this Stipulation
19 with full realization of its legal rights.

20 28. The Commissioner retains jurisdiction to ensure that the Parties comply with the
21 provisions and terms of this Stipulation and the Order requested thereon.

22 29. The undersigned represent and warrant under penalty of perjury under the laws of
23 the State of California that they have full and complete authority to enter into this Stipulation
24 and bind the party on whose behalf they are signing to all of the terms of this Stipulation.

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1 **IT IS SO STIPULATED.**

2 Dated: July 31, 2026

SOMPO AMERICA INSURANCE COMPANY

3
4 By



5 Dated: July 31, 2026

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

6
7
8 By



Sara Ahn, Staff Counsel
Rate Enforcement Bureau

1 **BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**
2 **OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

3
4 In the Matter of the Rates, Rating Plans, or
Rating Systems of

5 SOMPO AMERICA INSURANCE
6 COMPANY,

7 Respondent.

File No. NC-2026-00008

**ORDER ADOPTING STIPULATION AND
CONSENT ORDER**

8
9 **CONSENT ORDER**

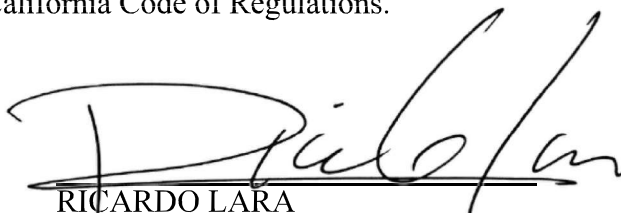
10 Having reviewed the parties' Stipulation and good cause appearing, I approve the terms
11 of the Stipulation and adopt and incorporate those terms by reference as though fully set forth
12 herein as the Order of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California in this matter, and
13 order as follows:

14 In order to settle this matter, Respondent shall:

- 15 a. Issue refunds pursuant to paragraph 11 of the Stipulation;
16 b. Pay a penalty of \$50,000 within 30 days of receiving an invoice with payment
17 instructions from the Department; and
18 b. Transact all future insurance business in compliance with Insurance Code
19 sections 1861.01 and 1861.05, as well as all other applicable provisions of the
20 Insurance Code and the California Code of Regulations.

21 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

22 Dated: August 5, 2026

23 
24 RICARDO LARA
25 California Insurance Commissioner
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